



Northeast Texas Forest Landowners Association Newsletter

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WHEN AUTUMN LEAVES BEGIN TO FALL, WHY DO THEY TURN COLORS?

Autumn is welcomed by many people. It marks the end of hot summer days and it is the time of year when tree leaves begin to show their beautiful colors. One of the biggest tourist attractions in New England is the fall leaf colors. The nice thing about living in East Texas is that vivid fall colors can be enjoyed without traveling half way across the US. A trip to the pine and hardwood forests of East Texas during October and November is sure to delight the eye. But why do the tree leaves develop the beautiful red, orange, and yellow colors in the fall of the year?

During most of the growing season, plants (including trees) produce a material called chlorophyll. Chlorophyll enables plants to convert water and carbon dioxide in the presence of sunlight into carbohydrates, which plants use for food. This process is called photosynthesis. Chlorophyll is what gives plants their green color. Tree leaves have other colors present most of the time, but the green chlorophyll is so dominant that it masks the other colors. Near the end of the growing season (autumn), chlorophyll production is reduced or stops and chlorophyll that is present in the leaves begins to break down. When this happens the yellow and orange pigments, called carotenes and xanthophylls, are unmasked and their colors become visible. Red, pink, and purple pigments may also develop.

Chlorophyll formation is sensitive to any factor that disturbs metabolic processes in the plant. Unfavorable levels of light, temperature, water, oxygen, and essential minerals will have an impact on how much chlorophyll a plant will produce. For instance, when a plant is lacking in nitrogen or iron (mineral deficiencies), or is grown in little or no light, it will

develop a yellow or pale green color. It is said to be chlorotic, or lacking in chlorophyll. Water and heat stress (hot, dry weather) and cool temperatures (autumn) will destroy chlorophyll and allow carotenes and xanthophylls to be exposed. In most plants there is about three times as much chlorophyll as carotenes and xanthophylls.

Sometimes a genetic mutation in the plant will cause leaves to be variegated (part yellow and part green). The part of the leaf that is yellow lacks chlorophyll. Occasionally a mutation will occur where no chlorophyll is produced and a short-lived albino plant results. Occasionally bud mutations occur resulting in albino or variegated branches in otherwise normal (green) trees and shrubs. These color variations are not associated with fall leaf colors, but involve green and yellow pigments in the leaves.

The discussion above explains why green and yellow colors are seen in the leaves of trees. A pigment called anthocyanin is responsible for the red, pink, and purple colors in leaves that are so attractive. This pigment forms in the sap of leaf cells, usually late in the growing season (autumn). Its formation is dependent on an accumulation of carbohydrates in the plant, on the genetic properties of the tree, and environmental factors. The most important environmental factors controlling autumn leaf coloration are temperature, light, and water. Cool temperatures (above freezing), drought, and bright sunny days favor the production of anthocyanin. Because they are exposed to the most sunlight, leaves in the upper crown usually develop the brightest red colors. On the other hand, several days of rainy or cloudy weather often decrease the intensity of fall colors. The bright red and orange fall colors

for which maple trees are famous are due to the production of anthocyanin in the leaves. Also, sassafras, sweetgum, and sumac produce large amounts of anthocyanin, which accounts for their deep red colors. Trees of the same species growing close together often show much color variation. This is due to the tree's response to environmental factors and different mixtures of chlorophyll, carotenes, xanthophylls, and anthocyanin pigments that produce the red, orange, yellow, crimson, purple, and related colors in the leaves.

Some trees do not form anthocyanin pigments. When the amount of chlorophyll present in leaves begins to decline in the fall, the yellow carotenes and orange xanthophylls become visible. Hickory and elm leaves are an example of this since they often display bright yellow autumn colors. Oak leaves often turn brown with very little yellow or orange coloration. This is because they contain large amounts of tannin (brown color) and relatively few carotenes.

In summary, declining autumn temperatures result in reduced chlorophyll formation and the disintegration of chlorophyll already present. In other words, the green color begins to fade. At the same time stored carbohydrates aid in the production of anthocyanin (red, pink, and purple colors). As the levels of chlorophyll decline, the yellow carotenes and orange xanthophylls along with anthocyanin become visible. In short, the best autumn colors occur under conditions of clear, dry, and cool (but not freezing) weather.



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Association Officers***



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Good News!

Our Northeast Texas Forest Landowners Association (NETFLA) has once again won the Texas Forestry Association (TFA) award for the County Association with the highest percentage of members who are also members of TFA. Our association has won this award several times in the past, but the Rusk/Smith County Landowners Association was the winner last year. We are back on top this year, and NETFLA will be recognized at the TFA Annual Meeting. In addition to the recognition, TFA will treat us to lunch after one of our NETFLA quarterly programs in 2011.

I am pleased that many of the members of our Association also find it beneficial to belong to TFA. The lunch will be nice, but probably of lesser value to you than the information available in TFA's monthly publication "Texas Forestry" or TFA's advocacy role for the forestry business.

NETFLA programs and presenters are selected by your Association Officers. Our goal is to keep membership informed and to offer programs that will guide you in managing your timber activities. Do you have an issue that you would like to learn more about? If so, contact one of the officers and we will try to address it in a future program.

I also encourage you to attend Association programs when you can fit them into your schedules. I have found speakers and programs to be informative and educational. Visiting with other landowners and our Texas Forest Service Foresters, however, provides an excellent opportunity to ask questions and find out what others have done or are considering. Some of the issues that I have heard discussed include: timber income taxes, county timber tax exemptions, which consulting forester do you use, what are carbon credits, who planted your seedlings, what was the age of your trees at the first thinning, have you used herbicides to control non desirable species, have you considered fertilizer, what site preparation did you do before planting, do you maintain roads and fire breaks, have you utilized mulching equipment, have you applied for Department of Agriculture cost shares, and what is required to get a private pesticide applicator license. As you can see topics are diverse, but there is a lot of experience available.

Hope to see you at a future program.

Glenn Weiss

Program and Meeting Notes

Eric Taylor has been the Texas Agrilife Extension Forestry specialist based in Overton for many years. Among other accomplishments, he did the original Texas research on containerized pine seedlings and fall planting, has implemented a continuing series of forestry webinars, was one of the first, years ago, to implement what was then high tech remote live satellite conferences and teaching programs, and lately has done intensive study and research on biomass for power generation, both for transportation and electricity generation. He's done — and doing — a lot more, but you get the idea. Eric stays on the cutting edge, and getting a chance to share his thoughts and latest research is a great opportunity for all of us.

Time to start thinking about programs for the coming year. There will probably be five meetings next year, one in February and two in the spring, probably April or May, with one in August and the last in November. Larry Hoffman has an excellent speaker for February to discuss tax strategies for preserving and protecting as much of your property and wealth from the taxman as possible, while retaining control.

May will be our tour and the biennial Tailgate Rally hosted by the TFA Forest Landowners Council. The Tailgate affair is an outdoor event that in the past has featured vendor booths, nature walks, equipment demonstrations, logging competitions, tree grading in the field, and much more, including hot food grilled on site. Great chance to visit with forest landowners from all over Texas in a relaxed and kid-friendly atmosphere.

The officers and directors serve as the program committee, but please remember that this is your organization. Let them know what programs you would like, and what you want to do. Everything is included. Times change, and sometimes old patterns need to be revamped. Give this one some thought over the next couple of months, and contact any officer, director, or me with your input. — *Bill*

2010 PROGRAM CALENDAR

Saturday, November 13

Pittsburg, Texas

**Timber Stand Establishment:
Strategies Reflecting Changes**

For the 21st Century

10:00 AM

Dr. Eric Taylor

Pilgrim Community Room

Saturday, February, 2011

Estate Tax Strategies — LLC's,

Trusts, Family Corporations

Pilgrim Community Room

New members joining at the November meeting will have their dues credited to 2011. Financial mailing address is:

NETFLA

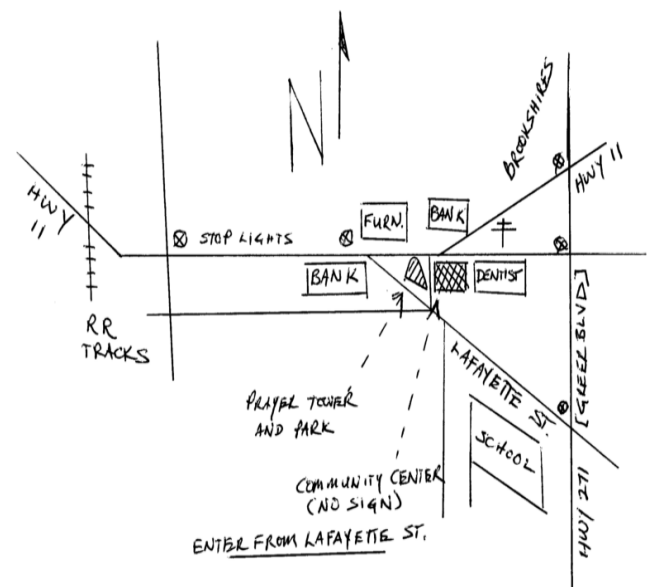
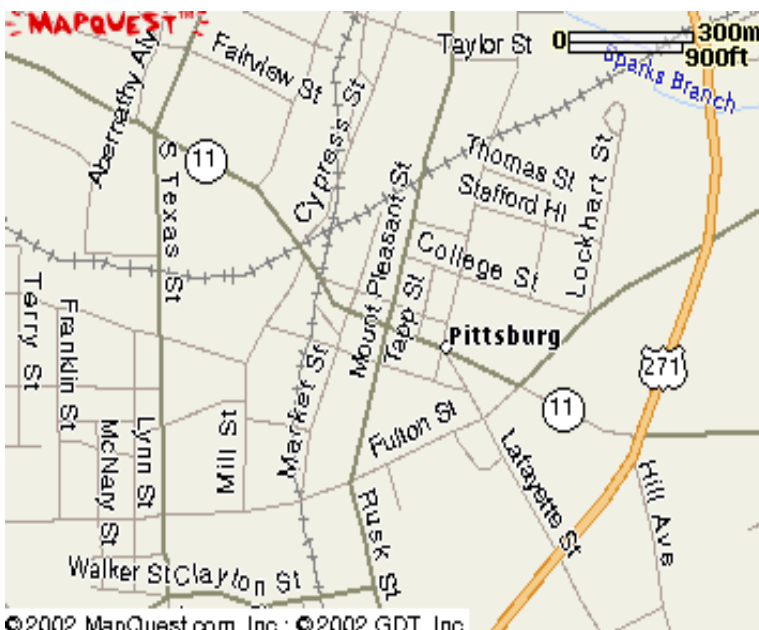
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EXTENSION FORESTRY SPECIALIST: CONSULTING FORESTERS INCREASE LANDOWNER REVENUES 25 PERCENT

VERTON – Studies show forest landowners increase their revenues 25 percent more per acre and have a healthier, more productive timber stands when they employ a consulting forester, according to Dr. Eric Taylor, Texas Cooperative Extension forestry specialist.

“What I hear all the time is that forestry is not rocket science, and it’s not,” said Taylor, who is headquartered at the Texas A&M University System Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Overton. “It’s harder, for with rocket science you have a set of unchanging variables, while with forestry you’re dealing with complex, dynamically changing ecosystem

“A landowner’s best bet is to enlist the aid of a qualified consulting forester,” Taylor said.

Forest landowners should pick their consultants carefully, because as in any profession, not all foresters are created equal, he said.

“No license is required in Texas. Anyone can claim to be a forester.”

When searching for a consultant, Taylor said, don’t be afraid to ask some pointed questions before entering into a contract:

- Has the forester earned a bachelor’s or higher degree from an accredited college or university?
- How many years of actual forest management experience does the forester have and in what capacity?
- To what professional or forestry-related organizations is the forester an active member? Recognized professional organizations include the Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Texas Forestry Association, Society of American Foresters and the American Tree Farm System (Certified Tree Farm Inspector).
- Is the forester familiar with local, state and federal regulations that affect silvicultural practices? He or she should be able to demonstrate knowledge of county road use per-

mits or bonds; regulations of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; bill-of-sale law; and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations involving endangered species, wetlands and water quality.

- Is the forester familiar with local and state property tax laws such as the Texas Reforestation Act?
 - Is the forester familiar with timber markets within the area of your property? He or she should be familiar with the number of pine and hardwood pulpwood and saw log mills, independent contractors, and wood yards.
 - Can the forester recognize boundary, title, income tax and access problems and recommend other professionals to help in those areas which the forester is not qualified to address, such as timber tax forms and exemptions specific to forestry?
 - Can the forester provide references from landowners he has worked with and the opportunity to view examples of previous work?
 - Is the forester in agreement with your management plan and long-term goals for your property?
 - If you have no forest management plan, will he or she prepare one?
 - Does the forester have good working relationships with the timber industry, familiar with the SFI certification requirements?
 - How far from the property does the forester live?
- “If the consultant lives too far from the property, it will be difficult to visit on a regular basis,” Taylor said.
- Will the forester provide a contract for services that outlines what is expected from both parties, outlining what the cost will be for the forester’s professional services?
 - Does the forester have an adequate staff of other professionals to assist him in management and service?

– Will the forester be available for subsequent silvicultural operations, or do you get the feeling that this may be a “one-time” job?

– Is the forester a good communicator, both orally and in written correspondence?

– Do you like this person?

“Although a negative response to any of the questions would not necessarily imply the forester is not an honest, competent individual, it could raise red flags and mean the landowner should review the consultant’s other qualifications more closely,” Taylor said.

“Often people will spend more time picking out a washing machine than choosing a forestry consultant.”

And this is a mistake, for while a few hundred dollars is all they’ll lose with a bad choice of an appliance, getting a lemon for a consultant can cost the landowner thousands if not hundreds of thousands of dollars, he said.

“On the other hand, landowners need to be realistic when it comes to their expectations of what resources and how long it takes to reach their objectives, whether it’s a crop of trees or an aesthetic view,” Taylor said. “Unreasonable expectation by the landowner can also result expensive lessons.

“One of the best ways to learn what is reasonable to expect from a given piece of land is to attend educational programs such as those conducted by Extension and the Texas Forest Service.”

Writer: Robert Burns, (903) 834-6191



Ecosystem Services Market Survey Reveals Landowner Interest in Being Paid for Maintaining Forests

Texas Forest Service News Release

The vast majority of forest owners would consider keeping their land forested if they got paid for doing so, according to a recently-released Texas Forest Service survey.

The findings were part of the agency's Environmental Credit Marketing Survey, which was sent last year to more than 5,100 landowners in an effort to gauge their interest in newly-emerging ecosystem services markets.

The markets are designed to provide a monetary reward to landowners who maintain their forests and, as a result, provide society with public benefits such as clean air and water, wildlife habitats, carbon sequestration and even places to relax and play.

Though they're not yet fully developed, the markets one day could allow landowners to earn money for keeping their forests intact.

"The goal of the survey was to gain a better understanding of landowner perspectives on ecosystem services markets, determine interest in these emerging markets, and identify potential participation barriers," said Program Coordinator Hughes Simpson, noting the overwhelming 20 percent response rate. "I think we successfully did that."

Arguably the most notable finding was that the lion's share of landowners — 82 percent of the more than 1,000 who returned the survey — would consider selling environmental credits. And many who said they likely wouldn't participate still were interested in learning more about the markets.

Of the landowners who were interested in selling environmental credits, several factors were found to have a significant positive influence: awareness of carbon credits, size of

their property, current participation in cost-share programs, and ownership to generate income.

"As expected, compensation is the biggest motivator," Simpson said. "Land and management restrictions - primarily to timber harvesting - were the greatest barriers to participation." Among the more notable findings:

- Seventy-five percent of landowners surveyed were knowledgeable about carbon markets, but not other ecosystem markets.
- Eighty-five percent were interested in obtaining more information on the topic.
- Eighty-two percent would consider selling environmental credits.

It also is interesting to note that among the landowners who indicated they would not be interested in selling environmental credits: forty-four percent were still interested in learning more about ecosystem markets.

"These results will help the agency develop additional educational materials, provide technical assistance to interested landowners, shape state and national policy regarding these markets and facilitate potential transactions, ultimately keeping forests in forests," Simpson said.

To learn more about the results of this survey and what they mean, read the Environmental Credit Marketing Survey Report, which can be found at this website: <http://texasforests.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=106&ptaxid=146&dtaxid=168&taxid=242>.

New Updates to Texas BMPs

Hughes Simpson, Program Coordinator, Lufkin, TX

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are practices determined to be effective and practical means of preventing and reducing the amount of water pollution generated by forest management. Developed in 1989, these recommended guidelines have been updated periodically to account for new research, technology, and operational methods. A task force, whose members are from state and federal agencies, academia, private industry, environmental organizations and includes landowners, meets regularly to discuss ways to make BMPs more efficient and effective at protecting water quality.

Major revisions in this document occurred in 1992 and 1995 when Streamside Management Zones (SMZs) were recommended for intermittent streams and wetland BMPs were added to the handbook, respectively. In 2004, the guidelines were clarified, and information on stream classification and basal area calculations (a measure of forest density), two important factors when providing SMZ protection to streams was added.

The most recent update to the handbook, August 2010, further clarifies the guidelines, and includes information on slope calculations, improved BMP design schematics, and wetland protection. Federal regulations for mechanical site preparation for pine establishment in forested wetlands are included in the manual, along with indicators of established and ongoing forest operations, a critical component of complying with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The new BMP handbook can be viewed online at http://texasforests.tamu.edu/sustainable/bmp_manual. To request a hard copy, please contact Texas Forest Service at (936) 639-8180

New Entity Researching Ways to Eradicate Invasive Species in Caddo Lake and Elsewhere

The [Center for Invasive Species Eradication](#) (CISE), under the direction of the Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI), was recently established by [Texas AgriLife Research](#) and the [Texas AgriLife Extension Service](#). The center is directing research, demonstrations, educational programs, and treatment activities that initially focus on eradicating giant salvinia in Caddo Lake. Next it will contend with other noxious non-native plant species in Texas. Congress provided the funds through the [U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) (NRCS).

"This center is a collaborative effort to complement and connect with ongoing endeavors by others dealing with invasive plant problems," said Dr. B.L. Harris, acting director of TWRI. "We look forward to working with not only AgriLife Research scientists and AgriLife Extension specialists but also other universities; local, state, and federal agencies; and other groups and individuals to provide practical solutions to controlling invasive species and preventing future infestations."

The center's first undertaking is the *Caddo Lake Giant Salvinia Eradication Project*, which seeks integrated, multi-agency management options for giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*). The free-floating aquatic fern was introduced to the United States by the water garden industry. Since its appearance in this country, giant salvinia has been an aggressive invader that can double in size in four to 10 days under favorable growing conditions.

Some other programs being conducted by CISE are Attoyac Bayou Water Protection Plan Development (Upper Neches River Watershed); Bacteria Fate and Transport (regarding E Coli in rural Texas landscapes and streams); Big Cypress Creek Basin (Northeast Texas);

Carters and Burton Creek Water Quality (Brazos County); and Efficient Nitrogen Fertilization. A complete listing can be found at <http://twri.tamu.edu/programs>. For more information about the Center for Invasive Species Eradication, please go to <http://cise.tamu.edu>.

Fred Winters Receives Texas Forestry Top Communicator Award

Ms. Linda Moon, Chairperson of the Communications Committee, Texas Forestry Association, presented Fred Winters, the Public Relations Officer for the East Texas Timberland Owners Association with the 2010 TFA Communicator of the Year Award at the TFA Annual Convention in Nacogdoches on October 21, 2010. This award is given to the TFA member who has gone above and beyond the normal duty of communications for TFA. In 2009, TFA launched an email marketing tool, Constant Contact, that has become a very cost-effective and excellent tool for getting information out to the membership in a timely manner. "Sometimes a member will start promoting TFA without being asked. Such was the case last year when Fred Winters would forward Constant Contact emails to members of the East Texas Timberland Owners Association and others interested in forestry related issues," said Ms. Moon

Editor's Note: Fred has been a NETFLA Associate Member for several years — way to go, Fred!

NETFLA Newsletter, etc.

This is the catchall box. First up is the newsletter. It evolved from the four page Four County Landowners Association letter to the present format of eight pages.

The purpose was to increase and retain membership by providing more information — including some technical articles that landowners might save for future reference — and that was tailored to our members. That

was, and still is, a primary goal. We also added a web site a few years ago, the first association to do so.

We continue striving to improve. As one member suggested, it would be quite possible to add a blog to the web to allow members to discuss forestry issues and share stories. I'd really like some feedback from you on this one, and on anything else you'd like to see added (letters to the editor, member stories or anecdotes, more graphics, etc.) or see changed. Freewheel it.

Finally, note that the bottom comment is non-partisan...*Bill*

ONE VOTE COUNTS — YOURS!

Did You Know That...

- In 1645 — one vote gave Oliver Cromwell control of England.
- In 1649 — one vote caused Charles I of England to be executed.
- In 1776 — one vote gave America the English language... instead of German.
- In 1839 — one vote elected Marcus Morton to be Governor of Massachusetts.
- In 1845 — one vote brought Texas into the Union.
- In 1876 — one vote changed France from a monarchy into a republic.
- In 1923 — one vote gave Adolph Hitler leadership of the Nazi Party.
- In 2010 — ????

These abound in Washington and Austin already, both Dems and Repubs, but especially in the agencies. Let's not let them get too comfortable.



SAVE THE DATE

Texas Timber Income and Property Tax Workshop

February 11, 2011 –, Lottie & Arthur Temple Civic Center, Diboll, Texas. 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. \$70/person (\$30 for each additional family member – no workbook). Lunch and refreshments included. Focus will be on federal timber income tax issues with a refresher on local timberland property tax incentives.

Seven (7) hours of CFE's (foresters), CLE's (loggers), and CPE's (CPA's) available. For more information, contact Monica Jadowski at (979) 458-6630 or mjadowski@tfs.tamu.edu. Check the Texas Forest Service homepage (<http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu>) for the future posting of the registration form.

Editor's Note: This one has always been very popular.

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for 2010 - <http://www.timbertax.org/publications/fs/taxtips/TimberTaxTips2010.pdf>

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's *The Feral Hog in Texas* - http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_bk_w7000_0195.pdf

Texas Forestry Association's position on the proposed study of the Neches River for possible designation under the Wild and Scenic River Act - http://texasforestry.org/images/uploads/WSR_Article_TF_for_web.pdf

Fall Foliage Website (US Forest Service) - <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/fallcolors/>

Drought Watch – NOAA - <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/shv/?n=drought>

Market Report – July/August, 2010

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Weight Difference
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume	
Pine-Sawlogs	\$29.32/ton	\$237.08/mbf	\$27.80/ton	\$220.53/mbf	+5%
Pine-Pulpwood	\$8.03/ton	\$21.67/cord	\$9.21/ton	\$24.85/cord	-13%
Pine-Chip'n'Saw	\$11.47/cord	\$30.97/cord	\$16.64/ton	\$44.92/cord	-31%
Mixed Hardwood-Sawlogs	\$26.23/ton	\$242.31/mbf	\$26.97/ton	\$248.14/mbf	-3%
Hardwood-Pulpwood	\$9.82/ton	\$27.51/cord	\$12.59/ton	\$35.25/cord	-22%

Texas Timber Price Trends is a bimonthly publication reporting average prices paid for standing timber in Texas. *This report is intended only as a guide to general price levels.* It should not be used to judge the fair market value of a specific timber sale, which may vary considerably due to many factors. It is recommended that you use the services of a professional consulting forester in managing any timber sale. Important factors affecting timber prices include the type, quality and volume of timber for sale, accessibility, distance to mills/markets, weather conditions, economy/market conditions, who is handling the sale or is buying the timber, and contract requirements by the landowner. Hard copies of this publication can be purchased by contacting Monica Jadowski at (979)458-6630. The complete Texas Timber Price Trends can be viewed at <http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=145>.

Conversion factors between volume and weight vary from sale to sale, so the differences in volume prices above may not equal differences in weight prices.

Stumpage price statistics include gateway sales (estimated by subtracting cut-and-haul costs, other expenses and profits provided by reporter).

Statewide data excludes U.S. Forest Service sales.

Price calculated from specific conversion factor reported for each sale if available; otherwise, average conversion factors listed on page 4 of *Texas Timber Price Trends* (<http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=145>) are used. MBF = thousand board feet. Doyle Scale used for board foot measurements.